Mathematics Instruction At Montessori Academy

This month, my message is designed to provide clarification regarding math instruction at Montessori Academy.

On September 30, 2019, Montessori Academy sponsored our Annual Curriculum Night with a focus on the Montessori materials that are implemented at each of our various classroom communities. We enjoyed record attendance that evening, as many of you came out to explore and interact with the Montessori materials that our teachers utilize to provide concrete ways of introducing math concepts. Starting with the Toddler House Community and advancing through the stages of development, Montessori Academy of Chambersburg continues to rely on Montessori resource materials as the primary methods for teaching mathematics. That has been and continues to be the traditions and policies for math instruction.

In Upper Elementary, where abstract concepts in math are introduced, teachers have extended the use of Montessori Albanesi cards by providing students with an opportunity to express in writing—what they have learned and to use their knowledge via project based applications. This is not a Common Core initiative. On the contrary, it is a Montessori framework that continues to foster student independence and to build their confidence at higher levels of understanding. It has come to my attention that there may be some confusion regarding this topic. I will be available during our upcoming Parent-Teacher conference time period. Please know that I am committed to Montessori learning at its greatest capacity and welcome an opportunity to discuss this matter further with parents who have any questions or concerns.

Parent-Teacher Conferences- November 7th –November 8th

Montessori Academy teachers are always available to communicate with parents whenever there is a need. In addition, parent/teacher conferences are designed to provide an opportunity for parents to meet with teachers to gain further insights regarding their child’s growth and development. Please take advantage of this scheduled event to partner with your child’s teacher. We look forward to our continued collaborations!

Warmest regards,

Dr. Wiley
The month of October has been full of exciting activities. We are continuing our study of fall by reading books about pumpkins, fall weather, leaves changing, and have practiced raking leaves.

Our month began with both Toddler Communities joining the Children House students for our annual trip to County Creek Produce Farm. The toddlers enjoyed riding on a hayride to pick pumpkins. We brought some of the pumpkins back into our room for our practical life activities including washing, polishing, painting. We even carved our very own pumpkin.

We also celebrated International Day by representing the country of Columbia. The toddler created maracas with coffee beans and engaged in shaking them during our parade. In our discussions about Columbia, we introduced some Spanish words like numbers 1 through 6, primary colors; red, yellow, blue. We even sang “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes” in Spanish. Our food tasting of Columbian food included beans and rice, plantains, and avocado, which was a fun experience for everyone. The toddlers have also been busy working on their projects for their individual community Silent Auction donation.
October has been an exciting month filled with many learning opportunities. We began October with our annual trip to the pumpkin patch at Country Creek Produce Farm. The farm was filled with fun for all ages. Many enjoyed the slides, trampolines, and ziplines. We especially enjoyed the hayride and the opportunity to pick our own pumpkins.

Our studies in the classroom this month have been focused on our basic human needs, the universe, the solar system, our planet Earth, the seven continents, as well as seasonal and pumpkin activities.

International Day was a highlight of our month. Each classroom represented a different country in the parade and we dressed in outfits from Egypt, Madagascar, and Italy. The students enjoyed singing *Hello to All the Children of the World*, *Together We Can Change the World*, and *Teaching Peace* for their friends and family. We tasted many delicious international dishes provided by our talented parents and enjoyed presentations from guest speakers about Pakistan, Ukraine, Serbia and Sicily.

Our kindergarten friends enjoyed a field trip to Renfrew in Waynesboro for their fall visit. They met Earthwalker and Mother Nature and learned how to explore nature’s wonders through their senses.

Special Friend Night was a great opportunity for the students to show what they are learning in the classroom and demonstrate a few of their favorite Montessori works for their special guest. What an amazing month filled with many memorable moments! We are looking forward to many more exciting activities as we enter the holiday season.

Sumaya with her pumpkin at the Country Creek field trip.

Andi and Alona dressed up in lambas representing Madagascar.
October has been a very fun and productive month for Lower Elementary. One of our main focuses was preparing for our International Day celebrations. At our level, we begin to teach the child how to research. They learn how to use an index to locate the information they are looking for. For our international studies, we used the atlas as a reference book to research countries from around the world. The students were able to choose their country and find what they thought would be important information to write in a report.

Some of the boys and girls worked on learning about the continents, hemispheres, major lines of longitude and latitude, and cardinal directions. Others broke down the months of the year into semesters, trimesters, and months by using fraction pieces and card works.

The students also worked on some animal card works and studies. They learned about the fish and amphibian and studied their external and internal parts.

We’ve been having a lot of fun and getting our bodies moving by participating in GoNoodle activities, which are short videos that get students exercising, and is also beneficial to brain activity by educating them on specific topics. We’re looking forward to November, with new lessons and learning!
Upper Elementary has had a great school year so far and everyone is adjusting very well to our new environment. In history, we have been busy learning about the election process and making our own campaigns with a campaign poster, slogan, and promises for a small classroom election for president and vice president. We enjoyed persuading our classroom peers in both our classroom primary and general election. Throughout the month in science, we have been studying animals and their eating habits and adaptations. We even used graphs of four different animals to find out how fast they moved around during the day. This helped us to understand if the animal was an herbivore, carnivore, or omnivore. In geography, we are having a lot of fun making our own maps as we study legends, compasses, and map scales on a map.

In Upper Elementary, we enjoyed International Day. We sang a song from India, during the ceremony. The food was delicious and we got to share our meal together as a community after learning dining etiquette and setting our own place setting at the table. The guest speakers were great and we learned a lot from them.

We are doing very well with the Words Their Way program. Students are writing stories in their journals about different topics that we are interested in during our free-writing time. Each student chose a president to study. After a lesson on how to discern reputable internet sources, We collected notes on our specific president. We are converting those notes into outlines and paragraphs for our reports.

Several of our sixth grade students have been participating in student council this year. They are working on preparing a pancake breakfast to help hurricane victims in the Bahamas on November 9, 2019 from 8:00 - 10:30 a.m. They enjoyed creating posters, making skits, and determining how to set up the Big Room for the breakfast.

We are having fun hanging out with the Lower Elementary students during lunch and recess time. Everyone is being very nice to the Lower Elementary students even when they are having bad days. It is a lot of fun when the students from different levels interact with each other. Getting to know the students who are coming to Upper Elementary next year is another perk of Upper and Lower Elementary hanging out with each other.

By Janie Miller, Room 112 - Grade 6
Middle School students have been continuing their study of Civil War history through several field trip experiences that helped to bring the events to life. On October 8th, we visited Harpers Ferry, WV, where we learned more deeply about the John Brown Raid, the issue of slavery, and how human rights are still an issue people are fighting for today. On October 9th, we traveled to Gettysburg, where we explored the topic of citizenship by learning about three civilians, Abraham Bryan, Lydia Leister, and Elizabeth Thorne, and their contributions to military personnel during the battle of Gettysburg.

Our Civil War classroom simulation has also been helping students learn about the issues that precipitated the war and the problems both sides faced during the conflict. Students have learned how to march and follow directions from their field commander, how to determine what supplies are needed, and so much more.

We’ve made great progress in our cross-curricular literature book, *Across Five Aprils*, a book that highlights life during the time of the Civil War. This book ties in nicely with our emphasis on Civil War history.

In science we are learning about the earth’s physical structure and features. Each student has been studying an earthquake that has taken place at some point in history. They are preparing a two page paper and a power point presentation about the earthquake’s location and effects to be shared with the class. They are also researching volcanoes throughout the world.

The students are entering a creative writing contest in which they are writing a 100-word story based on the theme, “Mission Contamination.” The challenge for them is to create an engaging story that completes a full story arc while using no more than 100 words.

We have begun our Coder Z Cyber Robotics Coding Competition and our students are making great progress through the various levels. They are hoping to once again be a top ranking school in Pennsylvania. Many thanks to Mrs. Snyder for donating her time and effort, as she helps the students learn how to perform effective computer coding.

We are looking forward to our upcoming field trips in early November to Washington, DC and the Gettysburg Nature Alliance, and we are so grateful for the wonderful opportunities we have to learn through these engaging experiences.
October is always a busy month for MAPO, and this year was no exception. We started with a fundraiser at Panera. Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy a meal together while raising money for MAPO activities. We raised $181.86!! Our next fundraiser will be Wednesday, October 30th at MOD Pizza. You can stop by anytime from 10:30AM to 9PM and mention Montessori Academy to participate.

International Day ran into some last-minute changes, but thanks to Sarah McAfee, Bethany Smith and the volunteer team, we pulled off a successful day. After the parade, we had many volunteers to help coordinate a wide variety of food for all our classrooms. Thank you to parents, who coordinated, cooked and baked all the delicious global treats! In the afternoon, we had two speakers give presentations for the Elementary and Middle School students. Cenona Wisocki spoke about the Philippines and Montessori parent Maria Grigorli shared pictures and stories from Italy. Finally, Sarah led the students in a game of international trivia with candy and treats from around the world for everyone to try.

Next up is Family Night to kick off the Book Fair, which will be Friday, November 15th. Kids can enjoy a Karaoke song and dance while shopping for books and don’t forget to stop by the concession stand for pulled pork sandwiches and hot dogs. Mrs. Whitlock will be looking for volunteers to help with the Book Fair November 18-22. Look for sign-ups in your email.

Spirit Wear sales are coming up ahead of Thanksgiving. Start (or finish!!) your holiday shopping with Montessori gear for every occasion. The blue Field Day shirts will also be available for order if your student needs a larger size. We will be offering adult sizes this year due to overwhelming requests! Information will be sent out in the coming weeks.

The Thanksgiving Feast is always a school favorite event with each class preparing part of the meal for all to share in the giving spirit. Melissa Bentzen and Jim Dickinson have graciously offered to cook and carve our turkeys and we appreciate their efforts! We will also have a Food Drive again this year with more details to come.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 7th at 9AM at the school. Hope to see you there!
One of the most popular live auction items each year is the Montessori Parent Gift Card Lot which always brings in at least $1,000. This year our goal is to have 100% Montessori family participation. Gift cards of all types and denominations are welcome. Please send gift cards to school or bring them to the school office and include the name of the donor.

We are almost sold out! All RSVP are due no later than November 4th
### Upcoming events!

#### This month:
- **November 5th**: Fire Prevention Day
- **November 7th & 8th**: Parent/Teacher Conferences
- **November 7th**: Noon dismissal
- **November 8th**: No school for students
- **November 9th**: Student Council Pancake Breakfast 8:00am-10:30am
- **November 15th**: Family Fun Night 5:30-7:00pm
- **November 16th**: Auction & Dinner 6:00pm
- **November 18th & 22nd**: Book Fair
- **November 26th**: Thanksgiving Feast 11:00am
- **November 27th**: Noon dismissal
- **November 28th**: December 2nd – No school

#### Happy Birthday!
- Adrian
- Gwen
- Grace C.
- Ashton
- Holden
- Thomas
- Isaiah
- Indica
- Elisa
- Jaycee
- Jordyn
- Julie
- Elena
- Nyasia

### Mustang Clubs

**3:15 - 4:15pm**

#### Check it out!
Second session of clubs will begin January 13th! Keep an eye out for additional information.